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7: U.S. ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO HELP MEXICO, SAYS CIA CHIEF
8: LOS ANGELES, Feb 9, Reuter - The Bush administration would
9: like to help Mexico through its debt problems so Mexico can
10: become an anchor in a sound Latin American policy, CIA Director
11: William Webster said in a report published on Thursday.
12: "But it's (Mexico) like every other place down there, it is
13: fragile," Webster said in an interview with the Los Angeles
14: Times in Washington.
15: Bush can be expected to give high priority to Latin America
16: because he has to do that, the head of the Central Intelligence
17: Agency said, predicting Mexico will be given far more attention
18: that it has been in the past,
19: On Panama, Webster described the "survival capacities" of
20: strongman Manuel Noriega as good. He said despite U.S. economic
21: and political pressures to force Noriega out of power, Noriega
22: is in no imminent danger of being overthrown in preparation for an an
23: offensive.
24: At least five villages close to a 70-km (45-mile) stretch of
25: the Salang highway as far as Bagram have been ordered cleared,
26: he told a news conference.
27: "The purpose was for the safety of the people and not to
28: harm them," he said, speaking through an interpreter.
29: The area had been infiltrated by "highway robbers and
30: plunderers," Delawar said, in a reference to the rebels.
31: The villages -- Mirbachakot, Shakadara, Karabagh, Kalakan,
32: and Bagram -- had not been cleared yet but the order had been
33: issued, Delawar said.
34: Heavy shelling or bombing has been audible from the area
35: several times since the main body of Soviet troops passed up the
36: Salang highway on their way home last week.
37: Afghan and Soviet forces conducted a heavy offensive against
38: the guerrillas further up the 3,600-metre (12,000-foot) high
39: Salang pass some three weeks ago.
40: Only a few hundred Soviet pilots and soldiers are left in
41: Kabul, guarding the airport, and they are due to leave by air
42: before the February 15 withdrawal deadline.
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